CLAIMS

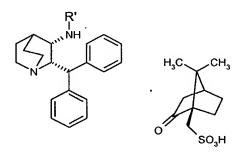
1. A process for preparing the compound of Formula **lb**,

lb

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comprising:

(c) deprotecting a compound of Formula VIa,



Vla

wherein R' is a protecting group, to provide a compound of Formula VII;

VII

(d) reacting the compound of formula **VII** so formed with a compound of formula **VIII**,

and performing a reductive amination to provide a compound of Formula lb,

2. The process according to Claim 1 further comprising removing the camphorsulfonate salt of the compound of Formula **Ib** to provide a compound of Formula **I**,

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3. The process according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the protecting group is benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, 2,4-dimethoxybenzyl, or triphenylmethyl.

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- 4. The process according to Claim 3, wherein the deprotection is performed by catalytic hydrogenolysis with hydrogen.
- 5. The process according to Claim 4, wherein the catalyst is palladium on carbon, platinum on carbon, palladium on calcium carbonate, or palladium on alumina (Al₂O₃).
- 6. The process according to any preceding Claim wherein the reductive animation is performed by formation of an imine followed by catalytic hydrogenation.
- 7. The process according to Claim 6, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is palladium on carbon, platinum on carbon, palladium on calcium carbonate, or palladium on alumina (Al₂O₃).
- 8. The process according to any of Claims 2 to 7 further comprising isolating the compound of Formula I.
- 9. The process according to any of Claims 2 to 8 further comprising treating the compound of Formula I with citric acid, forming the compound of Formula Ia

$$H_3CO$$
 CH_3
 CH_3
 HO_2C
 CO_2H
 CO_2H
 CO_2H

la -- citrate monohydrate

10. A compound of the Formula VIa,